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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 ERDE-00
NRC-05 AID-05 COME-00 /092 W
----------021408Z 036470 /42
O P 021140Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2019
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PK, US, FR
SUBJECT: PAK-US RELATIONS: MIXED SIGNALS IN PRESS

1. IN A SCHIZOPHRENIC JUXTAPOSITION OF FRONTPAGE STORIES JUNE 2, THE PAK TIMES CARRIED A RABID ANTI-U.S. ARTICLE BY H.K. BURKI ENTITLED "ANOTHER BID TO BULLY PAKISTAN", WHICH OVER-SHADOWED A SMALLER UPBEAT PIECE ABOUT THE PAK-U.S. AGREEMENT IN PARIS TO RESTORE FRIENDLY RELATIONS. SANDWICHED IN BETWEEN WAS A THIRD STORY REPORTING U.S./FRENCH DENIAL
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OF NYT ARTICLE THAT FRANCE WAS HOLDING UP SALE OF REPROCESSING PLANT TO PAKISTAN.

2. BURKI ARTICLE CHARACTERIZED REPORTS ABOUT FRENCH DECISION TO HOLD UP REPROCESSING SALE AS "YET ANOTHER DETERMINED BID TO PRESSURIZE THE TWO COUNTRIES INTO ABANDONING THE AGREEMENT." DESPITE DENIALS BY BOTH

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GOVERNMENTS, ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT THERE IS EVERY
REASON TO BELIEVE THAT STORY WAS PLANTED BY AMERICAN
OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING THE SECRETARY. FRONT PAGE SPREAD
IN NYT AND "SATISFACTION OOZING THROUGH REPORT",
ARTICLE WENT ON, COMES AS NO SURPRISE. NYT, ACCORDING
TO BSRKI, IS A "POWERFUL SPOKESMAN OF THE ZIONIST
LOBBY DOMINATING THE POLICIES OF WASHINGTON AND IS
ALSO A MAJOR PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE INSTRUCMENT OF THE
AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION." QUOTING THE NYT STORY THAT
"POLITICAL UPHEAVALS" AND "UNCERTAINTY" ABOUT BHUTTO'S
FUTURE WERE THE REASONS ADVANCED FOR HOLDING UP THE
SALE, BURKI POSTULATES THAT PAKISTAN WAS DESTABLIZED
THROUGH A MASSIVE CIA CONSPIRACY TO SPIKE REPROCESSING
AGREEMENT. TO ROUND OUT THE ARGUMENT, HE STATED THAT
ASGHAR KHAN HAD LET IT BE KNOWN THAT IF HE CAME TO
POWER PAKISTAN WOULD CANCEL THE NUCLEAR DEAL WITH
FRANCE. ARTICLE CLOSED BY REITERATING BHUTTO'S DETER-
MINATION TO GO AHEAD AND "HOLD FRENCH DOWN TO TERMS OF
THE AGREEMENT."

3. FAVORABLE STORY ON SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AZIZ
AHMED IN PARIS CAPTIONED "PAKISTAN, U.S. TO RESTORE
FRIENDLY TIES" QUOTES AHMED AS SAYING TO REPORTERS AT
END OF TALKS THAT MEETING WAS "VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND
FRIENDLY. IN THE END THEY AND WE AGREED, IRRESPECTIVE
OF THE DIFFERENCES THAT CROPPED UP RECENTLY BETWEEN OUR
TWO COUNTRIES THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WISH TO RESTORE THEIR
RELATIONS TO THE FORMER STATE OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP AND
CONFIDENCE, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM IMPROVE FURTHER."
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STORY NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE BHUTTO ACCUSED THE U.S.
OF BACKING THE VIOLENT OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN IN PAKISTAN.

4. IN THIRD FRONT PAGE STORY, COVERING DENIAL BY U.S.
AND FRANCE OF NYT REPORT THAT NUCLEAR DEAL WAS BEING
POSTPONED, OBSERVERS IN ISLAMABAD WERE CITED AS SAYING
THAT NY HAS PERSISTENTLY BEEN TRYING TO CAST DOUBTS
ABOUT THE REPORCESSING AGREEMENT BY PUBLISHING BIASED
AND WRONG REPORTS. FRONT PAGE COVERAGE GIVEN BY NYT,
STORY STATED, WAS DONE WITH "OBVIOUS GLEE." PAK TIMES
VERSION OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIAL WAS CAREFUL
TO NOTE THAT FRENCH HAD REITERATED THAT THEIR ATTITUDE
ON THE MATTER IS UNCHANGED AND THAT PARIS AND ISLAMABD
STAND BY THEIR AGREEMENT. FRENCH SPOKESMAN WAS REPORTED

AS REJECTING NYT STORY THAT FRANCE HAD COME AROUND TO
U.S. VIEW ON EXPORT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY.
CONSTABLE

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